

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

#EO-350  
JFW

**POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 453X)

**December 1, 2006**

**ABANDONMENT TYPE**

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption ( ) Petition for Exemption ( ) Regulated Abandonment

**(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on November 13, 2006 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended six (6) environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

**Conclusion**

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. To ensure appropriate consideration of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) prior to commencement of any salvage activities and shall comply with the reasonable NPDES requirements.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to assess potential impacts to the Bald eagle or other Federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, and identify any appropriate mitigation measures that may be warranted. The railroad shall report the results of the USFWS and WDFW consultations to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in writing prior to the onset of salvage operations.
3. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF shall consult with the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to assess potential impacts to the Chinook salmon and identify any appropriate mitigation measures that may be warranted. BNSF shall report the results of the NMFS consultations to SEA in writing prior to the onset of salvage operations.

4. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, BNSF shall consult with the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regarding its requirements and, if applicable, shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the ACOE.
5. Prior to beginning any salvage activities, BNSF shall consult with WDOE to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required. If consistency certification is required, the railroad shall be prohibited from performing any salvage activities until it obtains consistency certification and shall then notify SEA, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 CFR 1105.9.
6. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) has not completed its review of the proposed abandonment. Accordingly, we will recommend a condition requiring the railroad to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process has been completed.

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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